

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW SEOUL TAIPEI HONG KONG
PEKING CINCPAC FROM TOKYO DTD 01 JUL 1977 QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 9925

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: SOPN, JA, US

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTION TO SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH

1. JAPANESE MEDIA GAVE HEAVY, GENERALLY FAVORABLE
PLAY TO SECRETARY'S JUNE 29 SPEECH BEFORE ASIA SOCIETY.
STORIES HIGHLIGHTED SECRETARY'S REAFFIRMATION OF US
COMMITMENT TO REMAIN ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER AND IN
PARTICULAR, IMPORTANCE AND PRIORITY HE ATTACHED TO
CONTINUED CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.
KYODO WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT INTERPRETED SECRETARY'S
COMMENTS ON JAPANESE ECONOMIC "RESPONSIBILITIES" AS
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"GENTLE CHIDING" OF GOJ FOR FAILURE TO STIMULATE
ECONOMY SUFFICIENTLY AND TO OPEN UP DOMESTIC MARKETS
FOR IMPORTS . OTHER STORIES FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINE, BUT
ONLY YOMIURI CHOSE TO PLAY IT IN NEGATIVE TONE. SANKEI
SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SPEECH DID NOT CONTAIN MANY NEW
DEPARTURES, CONTENTS DEFINITELY EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS
OF JAPANESE DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS.

2. ALTHOUGH MOST ACCOUNTS OF SPEECH LED WITH JAPAN-RELATED ASPECTS OF SPEECH, SECRETARY'S DESCRIPTION OF NORMALIZATION WITH PRC AS "CENTRAL PART OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY" RAN CLOSE SECOND IN EXCITING MEDIA INTEREST. FONMIN SOURCE CITED AS SAYING THAT IT WAS CLEAR SECRETARY WAS GIVING ATTENTION TO CHINA WITH AUGUST VISIT IN MIND, BUT HE DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN US-PRC RELATIONS.

3. PRIMIN AND CABINET ARE PRESENTLY IN AND OUT OF TOKYO, PREOCCUPIED WITH UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGNING, AND HAVE NOT YET MADE FORMAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON SPEECH. WE HAVE ENSURED THAT SPEECH HAS BEEN CALLED TO ATTENTION OF PRIMIN, FONMIN AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY. IN BACKGROUNDER TO JAPANESE PRESS ON EVENING OF JUNE 30, FONMIN HATOYAMA WELCOMED SPEECH AS AUTHORITATIVE EXPLANATION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY TOWARDS EAST ASIA. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FONMIN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY THAT HATOYAMA FOUND SECRETARY'S COMMENTS "IMPRESSIVE IN BOTH SUBSTANCE AND STYLE" AND CONSIDERED SPEECH ESPECIALLY USEFUL RESTATEMENT OF US SECURITY COMMITMENT TO ROK.
MANSFIELD UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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